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3400 Forest Pest Management November 16, 1981

Vegetative Management Session, LaWisWis Campground, Packwood RD

Forest Supervisor, Gifford Pinchot NF

On November 3-5, and 10, Gregory Filip, Plant Pathologist from the Regional Office, participated in a vegetative management session concerning LaWisWis Campground on the Packwood Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Purpose of the session was to develop a plan for present and future management of all vegetation, including hazard trees in LaWisWis. Others who actively participated in the session were Jim Olsen, Developed Sites Specialist at the RO; Jim Pollock, Head of Landscape Management at the RO; Dave Porter, Landscape Architect from the Supervisor's Office; Ray Scharpf, District Resource Assistant; Tom Lampman, District Silviculturist; and Susan Hamcharsky, District Recreation Forester. This is the second vegetative management session in which Regional Office pathologists have participated. At least one session is planned for a recreation site on each Forest in the Region.

LaWisWis Campground is in a stand composed primarily of old-growth Douglas-fir. Many of the trees are remarkable specimens exceeding 200 feet in height and 50 inches at DBH. However, the Campground stand suffers from several disease problems associated with old-growth Douglas-fir: laminated root rot caused by *Phellinus weirii*, red-brown butt rot caused by *Polyporus schweinitzii*, and probably the most prevalent in LaWisWis, conk rot caused by *Fomes pini*.

Since 1976, the District has had a conscientious program to selectively remove the most hazardous trees in LaWisWis. Nearly 300 old-growth trees have been removed to date. On the present visit, at least 20 more trees were identified as being serious hazards requiring treatment. Most of these trees were extremely large Douglas-firs adjacent to buildings or camping spurs and infected with *Fomes pini* as evident by five or more conks.

Conks of *Fomes pini* indicate heartrot; the amount of rot dependent on tree age and the number, size, and distance between conks. All trees in the Campground have been numbered and bored at DBH to determine sound wood thickness. However, most of the conks are more than 25 feet from the ground. Since heartrot is usually greatest near the conks and boring near the conks to determine sound wood thickness is impractical, we recommend that only those trees with five or more conks separated by 10 feet or more should be considered for removal if they are in a location where they present an unacceptable hazard. Trees with fewer conks should be inspected annually, and if new conks appear, these trees should be considered for removal.

In addition, trees adjacent to the river with root systems that have been seriously eroded should be considered for removal, especially if they are within striking distance of camp units.

The vegetative management session revealed several ways to deal with present and future hazard trees in the Campground as a component of long-term old-growth management:

1. A mosaic of small clearcuts of 1 acre or less should be located in the Campground to remove as many hazard trees as possible and, at the same time, create openings to allow the establishment, either naturally or artificially, of Douglas-fir or western redcedar to serve as the future campground stand.

2. It is desirable that the future old-growth stand be Douglas-fir or western redcedar rather than western hemlock. Douglas-fir and cedar are less prone to decay becoming established because of wounding and abuse than hemlock, and thus serve as more long-lived tree species.

3. In areas where laminated root rot is present, cedar and secondarily, hemlock, should be favored or planted rather than Douglas-fir since both species, especially cedar are more resistant to laminated root rot than Douglas-fir.

The District plans to begin harvesting in LaWisWis some time in December 1981. They requested that a pathologist assist them in selecting hazardous trees and boundaries of patch-cuts. This activity is tentatively planned for the first week of December.

If FPM can be of further service, please contact us.

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